



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB 6034
1 May 87

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THRU: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--April 1987

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. April marked the end of a several month lull in political activity in Abidjan's coverage area. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto toured the area and came away with agreements on new diplomatic ties with both Zaire and Ivory Coast, and Romanian President Ceausescu also visited several countries. Several regional conferences were held, the most important of which was a meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee looking into the Chad-Libyan conflict. The Libreville meeting eventually decided to send a ministerial delegation to Chad and Libya and to set up a cartographer group to examine the contested Aousou Strip issue. Chad and all its neighbors with the exception of Libya attended the meeting.

2. Shuttle diplomacy involving Chad figured prominently during the month. Former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei traveled widely throughout the area and met with several heads of state amidst speculation on efforts at reconciliation with Chad President Habre and Neo-GUNT rival Acheikh ibn Oumar. While in Togo, he also met with Chad secretary of state for foreign affairs but nothing definitive emerged. Both Zaire's Mobutu and Mali's Traore made visits to Chad. Burkina Faso President Sankara, and later his foreign minister, made unannounced visits to Libya. Sankara also met unexpectedly with Ghana President Rawlings.

3. Sierra Leone ousted its vice president in a cabinet reshuffle, and Senegal dismissed most of its police force in a labor dispute. Major peaceful pro-Libyan rallies took place in Ghana and Burkina Faso to mark the anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Libya. Iran announced it was to open an embassy in Ghana.

B. Coverage

Coverage of events was somewhat complicated during the month by the loss of the bureau's AFP French landline from 9 April to 23 April due to technical. The bureau was able to monitor the AFP high frequency

beam as a backstop and the Wire assumed coverage between AFP-HF sign off at 1900 GMT and bureau COB at 2230 GMT.

C. Technical

Two Victor VPCII computers, two Epson FX-85 printers, and BACH software and hardware were received on 7 April. The equipment has been installed and is currently being used off-line for training the teletypists.

II ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Senior monitor, [redacted] received a PSI during the month.

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2. The bureau chief returned from the Bureau Chiefs Conference and annual leave on 11 April.

B. Buildings and Grounds

1. With the exception of installation of various deadbolt locks and optical viewers at some residences and solid vehicular gates at all staff residences, the residential security enhancements, which were begun last fall, have been completed.

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2. Junior editor [redacted] will move to a new residence in mid-June. The location of her present house was determined to be unsafe by the post regional security officer. The FBIS security officer also expressed concern about the location of Fleitman's house during his visit here last fall. The Embassy has been trying to avoid housing mission employees in residences adjacent to vacant ~~lots~~ because experience has shown that such houses are more prone to robbers.

3. Auto burglar alarms for the bureau's three official vehicles have been received and tested. Barring major malfunctions, installation will be completed within 2 weeks.

III. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On 27 April, the bureau chief briefed a visiting U.S. National Defense University delegation on FBIS/Abidjan activities.

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[redacted]

Bureau Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau